



STARRING

12¢



DETECTIVE

COMICS

BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER

MAR.
NO. 361



HURRY, **BATMAN**--
GET ME OUT OF
THIS **HOT BOX**
BEFORE I--

SORRY, **ROBIN**! YOU'LL
HAVE TO WORK OUT
YOUR OWN ESCAPE!
I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER
THOSE CROOKS!



HOLY STEAM BATH!

WHY IS **BATMAN** HOTFOOTING
IT AWAY FROM **ROBIN**?
SIZZLING ANSWER-- **INSIDE!**

NOVELTY PARADE



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Just blow into the tube and the parachute
will come jumping all over the place.
ONLY 35¢



ONLY 50¢

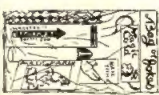


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PACKAGE**
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such as—Snap, Gam,
Pitchin' Trick, Card
Trick, Player's Trap,
all Puzzle & Magic
puzzles.

No 105

ONLY 50¢



Ventillo

Also known as the
Wonder Voice
Harmonizer. Becomes
a ventriloquist.

№ 106

ONLY 50¢



Confederate Bumperettes
 2 1/4" colorful (Shades in the Dark)
 cards already with adhesive and easy to
 apply to your bumper.
 display card.

№ 108


50¢



SCARFACE
A plastic seat that looks so realistic, it's one in the face and gets lots of sympathy and pity.



No 110



This small size camera, which looks like the real thing will, instead of taking pictures, emit water.

504



GLO-TEETH
 • Shap in teeth
 • Create hundreds of
 • Disposes they glow
 • Bright at night.

No 112 \$1.00



TINY HARMONICA
About 1" long. With key chain. 13 to
the card. Terrific value for the money!
Plays real tunes.
№ 113
50¢



and Pyramid Puzzle.

No. 114

50¢



Wind it up, shake-
bawls, Vertum will
get a shock of his life.
Also known as Vi-
brantor.

№ 115 754



MAGNET

Made of hardened steel and powerfully magnetized. Each to a display card.

№ 116 354



INVISIBLE INK

INVISIBLE Ink Powder

Makes writing appear and disappear at once with

№ 118 5



RUBBER BAT
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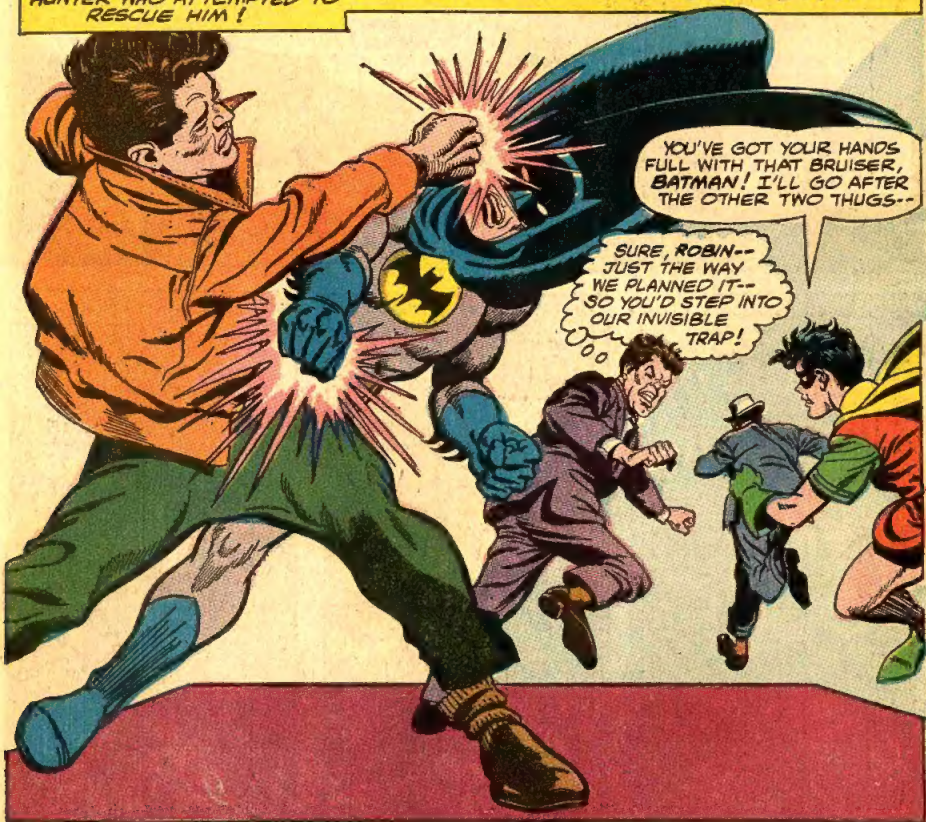
BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER



EIVOL EKDAL--THAT MASTER
MAKER OF TRICKY TRAPS--
HAD DEVISED THE MOST
DIABOLICAL TRAP OF ALL!
IT WAS A DOUBLE-BARRELED
DOOZEY--FOR IT WAS DE-
SIGNATED TO DESTROY NOT ONLY
THE BIRD (ROBIN) IT CAPTURED
BUT THE (MASKED MAN--)
HUNTER WHO ATTEMPTED TO
RESCUE HIM!

THE DYNAMIC DUO'S DOUBLE-DEATHTRAP!



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DURING THE FIRST FORTY YEARS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, A SPECIALTY SHOP IN EAST BERLIN MANUFACTURED STAGE PROPS FOR MAGICIANS AND ESCAPE ARTISTS...

CLAP CLAP

YOU HAVE EXAMINED THE EMPTY BOX! I PULL AWAY THE CURTAIN AND--PRESTO!

CLAP CLAP

THEN THE BERLIN WALL WAS BUILT AS THE IRON CURTAIN FELL WITH A CLANG! NOW THE DEFT FINGERS THAT HAD MADE STAGE GIMMICKS TURNED TO MORE SERIOUS ESCAPE--DEVICES...

AFTER OBTAINING A LICENSE TO DELIVER FURNITURE HERE TO WEST BERLIN--

--WE COMMISSIONED A CERTAIN PARTY TO CONSTRUCT THIS DRESSER SO THAT WHEN THE GUARDS EXAMINED IT THEY WOULD FIND NO TRACE OF YOU INSIDE!

THANKS TO THAT "CERTAIN PARTY" I HAVE ESCAPED FROM COMMUNIST TYRANNY!

ONCE USED, THESE CLEVERLY DESIGNED ESCAPE-DEVICES WERE DISCARDED, BUT NOT IGNORED...

THE RED SECRET POLICE MUST LEARN WHO MAKES THESE CLEVER ESCAPE MECHANISMS--AND LIQUIDATE THEM! WITH THESE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUES, WE MUST CONTACT THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN IDENTIFY THEM FOR US!

ONE WEEK LATER, THREE MEN MARCH IN MILITARY PRECISION UP TO A HOUSE IN GOTHAM CITY, U.S.A., WHERE ...

THIS IS THE HOUSE! BREAK OPEN THE DOOR!

SECONDS AFTERWARD...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO...?

I HAVE COME A LONG WAY TO SEE YOU, EIVOL EKDAL! YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH MY FACE, NO?

FOR AN INSTANT, LIVID FEAR ETCHES ITS ACID ON THE FACE OF THIS MASTER CRAFTSMAN, BUILDER OF ESCAPE GADGETS AND TANTALIZING TRAPS FOR THE CRIMINAL UNDER-WORLD OF AMERICA*...

YES--I RECOGNIZE YOU! IN THE OLD COUNTRY--YOU ARE KNOWN AS THE **BERLIN BUTCHER!**

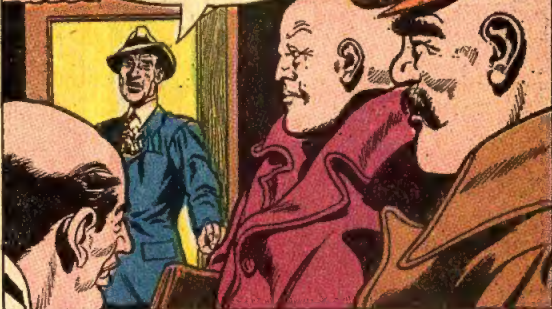
AND PROUD OF IT TOO! NOW I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU!

*SEE DETECTIVE COMICS #346:
"BATMAN'S INESCAPABLE DOOM--TRAP!"

SUDDENLY A HARD VOICE RASPS WITH FURY...

YOU THERE, BALDY! WHERE DO YOU GET OFF INTERRUPTIN' US? I WAS HERE FIRST, SEE! WAIT YOUR TURN LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE!

SHALL WE DISPOSE OF HIM, SIR?



YOU WANT WE SHOULD GIVE 'EM LEAD POISONING, BOSS?

WAIT! WAIT! THERE IS NO NEED FOR VIOLENCE! NEITHER OF US WANTS THE POLICE RUSHING HERE! YOU TELL ME WHEN TO RETURN, EKDAL...

er--AH--SHALL WE SAY TOMORROW NIGHT AT NINE? AND, OF COURSE, I CHARGE A FEE FOR MY SERVICES--

I AM WELL AWARE OF THAT! I SHALL BE BACK TOMORROW--WITH THE \$100,000!

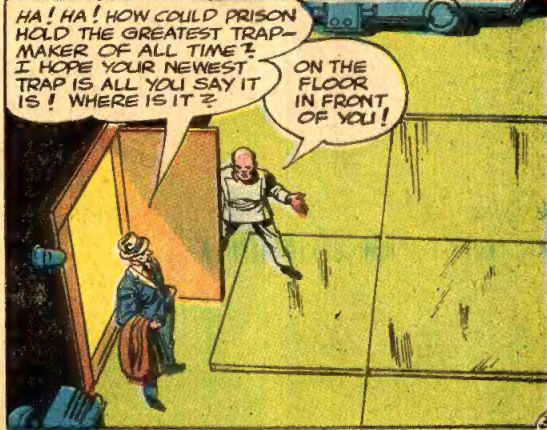


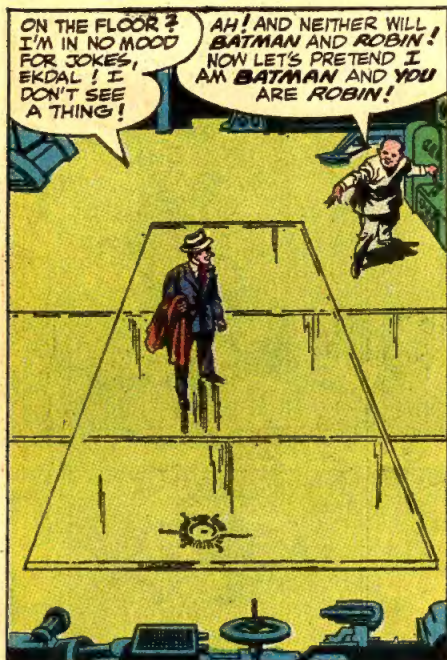
WHO WAS THAT CREEP, EKDAL?

er--NEVER MIND HIM--COME! LET US GO ON WITH OUR BUSINESS--AND MY DEADLY TRAP FOR **BATMAN**, WHICH I WORKED OUT AFTER ESCAPING THE PRISON HE PUT ME IN!

HA! HA! HOW COULD PRISON HOLD THE GREATEST TRAP-MAKER OF ALL TIME? I HOPE YOUR NEWEST TRAP IS ALL YOU SAY IT IS! WHERE IS IT?

ON THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF YOU!





ON THIS SAME EVENING IN THE WAYNE MANSION, AS BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON FINISH DINNER...

“KOFF! KOFF! BEG PARDON, SIR AND MASTER DICK-- BUT IT'S TIME FOR YOUR PATROL OF GOTHAM CITY! AND MASTER DICK-- A SCHOOLMATE PHONED ABOUT THE HOMEWORK...”



HOLY DIAL PHONE! I PROMISED TO CALL EDDIE ABOUT THE NEXT ASSIGNMENT! M/M/M-- WHAT'S HIS PHONE NUMBER? THERE ARE SO MANY NUMERALS, I NEVER CAN REMEMBER THEM ALL!

WHAT YOU NEED IS A MNEMONIC DEVICE TO AID YOUR MEMORY, DICK! IT'LL HELP TO SUBSTITUTE LETTERS FOR NUMBERS! WHAT'S EDDIE'S NUMBER?



THE NUMBER IS 328-3663! WELL, WE CAN GET EAT FOOD OUT OF THAT!

NEAT-O, BRUCE! IT'S EASIER TO REMEMBER TWO WORDS THAN SEVEN NUMBERS!



SOON AFTER, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE CRUISING THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY, WHEN...

EYES FRONT, BATMAN! THE SEISMOKON IS HOPPING AROUND LIKE MAD!

IT'S PICKED UP THE SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION IN THE VICINITY!



THE BATMOBILE IS AS DELICATELY TUNED TO CRIME AS ITS TWO OWNERS! QUICKLY THE RADAR ANTENNA SPINS AND ZEROES IN ON THE SITE OF THE DISTURBANCE...

--THE FORTUNE IMPORTING COMPANY!

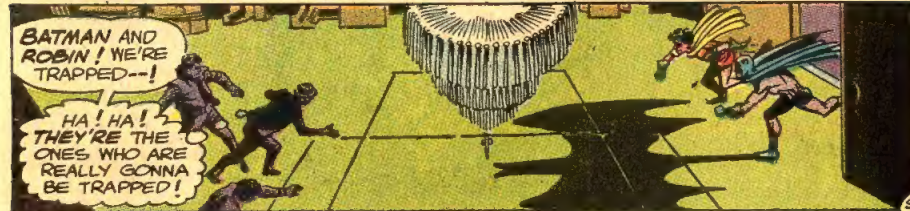
THOSE CROOKS DON'T KNOW IT BUT THEY'RE DOING SOME IMPORTING TOO -- US!

ONE IMPORTING CO.



BATMAN AND ROBIN! WE'RE TRAPPED--!

HA! HA! THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ARE REALLY GONNA BE TRAPPED!



AS THE MASSIVE
FIST OF THE
**MASKED MAN-
HUNTER** EX-
PLODES WITH
UNERRING POWER...

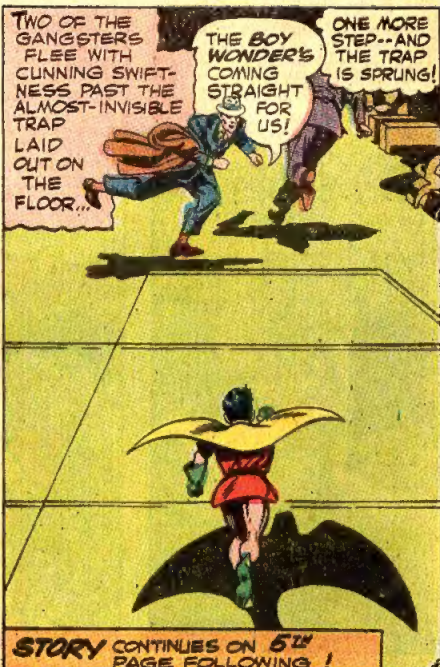
NOW TO LURE
ROBIN INTO
MY \$100,000
TRAP!



TWO OF THE
GANGSTERS
FLEE WITH
CUNNING SWIFT-
NESS PAST THE
ALMOST-INVISIBLE
TRAP
LAID OUT ON
THE
FLOOR...

THE **BOY
WONDER'S**
COMING
STRAIGHT
FOR US!

ONE MORE
STEP--AND
THE TRAP
IS SPRING!



STORY CONTINUES ON 5TH
PAGE FOLLOWING!

**A COLLECTOR'S
ITEM... DOUBLE-PAGE
PIN-UP**
of **ROBBY REED'S
SUPER-HEROES!**

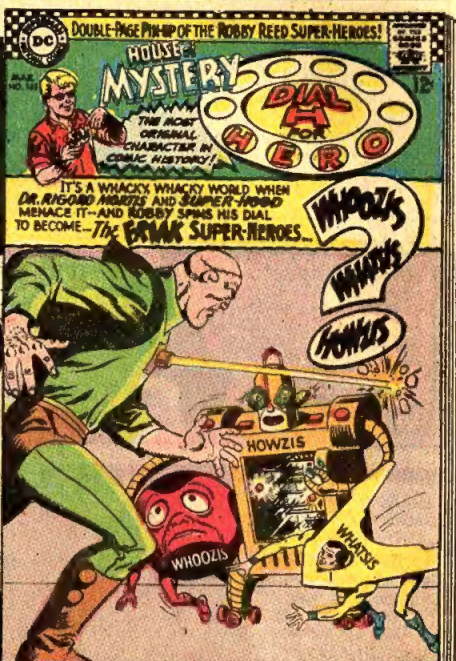
IN THE LATEST
ISSUE OF
DC'S
NEW
HIT...



in **HOUSE of
MYSTERY!**



BE SURE TO GET YOUR COPY--
NOW ON SALE EVERYWHERE!



capture hill 79

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This is your magic war map entry blank . . . available at GI JOE® stores. Put it under water and watch the winning numbers appear. Read it for complete rules.

BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor:

"Bruce Wayne Unmasks Batman" shows once again how wonderfully great *Batman* can be when given spectacular art and stories uncluttered by gimmicks, gadgety and gaudy villains, and laughable mass clobberings just to fill space. Unlike the *Outsider* fiasco, this story completely warrants the fourteen pages allotted it.

The plot is tightly woven, excellently developed, and brilliantly capped with a spectacular fight that, for once, isn't the least bit preposterous. In fact, just about the only complaints I have regarding this battle are the rashness on *Batman's* part to rush head-on to a criminal with a "Tommy-gun" and the somewhat foolhardy move, again by *Batman*, to climb a flagpole when he pursued the armed *Fargo*, thus making himself a perfect target. However, on balance, I must admit that the surprise and subsequent confusion caused by the sudden appearance of the caped crime-fighters managed to cover the former; and the tense, breath-taking action in the height of pursuit (coupled with the fact that *Fargo* was armed with only a revolver) made one forget *Batman's* foolishness.

I must also commend your fine writer (John Broome, I suspect), for his finely etched characterizations. *Boo-Boo* and *Beefy* were the perfect humorous touch to this grim tale; and *Fargo's* spine-chilling malevolence came off with smashing success. He is the kind of criminal *Batman* should regularly battle!

In the way of a story-wise summary, I would have to say that this is one of the best *Batman* stories I've ever read. If I cavil at picking a best one it is only because there are so many stories (27 years is a lot of yarns) and so many good ones that I simply can't pick a best. But I will say "Bruce Wayne Unmasks Batman" ranks, for me, among my ten favorites. A superb effort!

Artwise, the story is equally successful—spectacular in almost every detail. Joe Giella is quickly becoming the greatest enigma of all the cartoonists going today. I can never fathom how he is able to turn out a completely winning job such as we have here, and yet fall flat on his face in the recent *Flash* "wedding" ish. He fluctuates from bad to good constantly. Well, no matter, it is a joy to see this fine artist in top form—he did Infantino's marvelous pencils complete justice. By the way, I just love such shots as page eleven, panel five, page twelve panel two, and page thirteen the last panel. Wow! This is *Batman* in all his ever-lovin' glory! Thank you, Sirs Infantino and Giella.

—Paul Seydor, Imperial, Penna.

(From the *Batman* heights reached above, we sadly sink to the depths below.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

"Bruce Wayne Unmasks Batman" featured in *Detective* 357 was a far cry from the typically excellent extravaganzas we readers often times delight in *Detective*. Although there was a sufficient supply of action, suspense, excitement, and all of the other little goodies that will, when blended correctly, produce a wallop! whale of a tale, I still couldn't shirk the feeling that there was just something missing, something that detracted from the impact of the story.

After dwelling upon several different possible motives, my analysis leads me to believe that that certain "something" was a detectable deficiency of the world renowned "Bat-style" in the aforementioned action,

suspense and excitement. The fight scenes, the chase scenes, the general plot as a whole lacked the puissant "punch", the sheer "drive", which are the unique code of the famous *Dynamic Duo*. Tales that have been fulfilled with these one-of-a-kind "Bat-traits" have *Batman* etched all over them. Now an error of this sort is rare and I do not feel that the author who commits one of this nature should actually be "blamed" or held at fault for any circumstances that may result from it because, in most cases, he doesn't even realize what he has done. I tried to refrain from using the word "error" in my criticism because, after all, this is just one individual's opinion of the story and the majority of the readers may rule that the yarn was perfectly in check. But unfortunately, no other word for this characteristic of the story was at my disposal. So it all comes from each individual's viewpoint.

As for the *Elongated Man* story, "Tragedy of the Too-Lucky Thief," I believe you have made the biggest boo-boo since *The Flash* stood unmasks, his whole costume torn to shreds and a total loss after battling with his fellow *Justice League* members against some terrible menace in *JLA* #? whichever one it was (shows how faultless my memory is). Throughout the whole story, *EM's* costume was yellow instead of red. What happened here? Who's responsible? Well, I'm a good Christian and I'll forgive you, whoever you are, this time. Otherwise, excluding this blaring error, the story was as mirthfully merry and mystifying as ever. So let's call this ish a mediocre chapter in the history of *Detective Comics*, then clear up all of the relatively minor "so-called errors" and the bulky blaring boo-boos, and then finally, rewrite *Detective Comics* history and blot out the lonely minuscule black mark on *Detective's* all but spotless record.

—Alan Trahern, Covington, La.

(The reverse-color-switch on *Elongated Man's* costume was unfortunately committed by our colorist—who must have been temporarily overcome by a stroke of colorblindness. And because Ye Editor at the time the color-crime was committed happened to be vacationing in far-off California, he wasn't around to catch the error. Incidentally, is it traditionally compulsory that a hero's costume always have the same color scheme? Would it be too upsetting—or confusing—to depict *EM's* costume in a variety of colors from story to story—but retaining the same shape and cut? We invite reader reaction for our *EXTRA* page.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Batman and *Robin* were really in more trouble than they realized in the November *Detective*. Oh, there were the usual threats such as *Sluggo* and *Frankie* and other thugs, but *Batman* and *Robin* are constantly running against this type of menace. The real danger lay in a "*Batman and Robin*" (Tom Wiley and Stewart Hall) appearance on TV camera, with *Bruce Wayne* and *Dick Grayson*. The correlation here was frighteningly realistic. And those viewers who witnessed a resemblance were probably even more convinced when it was learned that Wiley and Hall were actually portraying the *Dynamic Duo* and were not really *Batman* and *Robin*. Holy close shave! *Brand coo-coo* couldn't have come closer!

—Frank Tower, Eustace, Texas

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

DIRECT CURRENTS

Well, here's the latest batch of goodies from DC . . . namely, our new preview of DC's (Dramas Coming). Remember—only the ones with the checkerboard are the real thing! Accept no AC's (Alternate Currents)!

To trap a notorious saboteur, the F.B.I. picks meek, timid CLARK KENT and trains him as an agent—never dreaming he's really the mighty 'SUPERMAN' March ACTION, No. 348, on the stands Jan. 31.

SGT. ROCK's prizefighter buddy of EASY COMPANY fights a battle rougher than the war itself in—"A PENNY FOR JACKIE JOHNSON!" You'll find it in the April OUR ARMY AT WAR, No. 179, on sale Feb. 2.

Here's the story we were DARED to print—no hoax, no phony, but the genuine tragic death of a hero! "TAPS FOR RED" is the title of the May CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, No. 55, on sale Feb. 2.

THE ATOM fights a one-man battle UNDERGROUND to stop a BAT-KNIGHT army from launching a world-wide attack OVERGROUND! "DAZE OF THE BAT-KNIGHTS!" May, No. 30, on the stands Feb. 2.

A million teachers! A half-million teachers! Would you believe 2,000 teachers are seized by some fortune-hunting flinks? May BOB HOPE, No. 104, on sale Feb. 2—co-starring SUPER-HIP, and the FACULTY OF FEAR!

SUPERMAN, SUPERGIRL, KRYPTO . . . even the bottle-city of KANDOR . . . fall into the clutches of a mysterious madman who is out to kill all survivors of the planet KRYPTON! April, No. 195, on sale Feb. 7.

The AMAZING AMAZON faces the most fantastic villain ever conceived when "WONDER WOMAN BATTLES THE CRIMSON CENTIPEDE!" This epic encounter takes place in the April issue, No. 169, on sale Feb. 7.

Underground fighter MILE MARIE teams up with the crew of the HAUNTED TANK in a mission to blow up the—"TARGET OF TERROR!" It's in the May G.I. COMBAT, No. 123, on the stands Feb. 9.

The day HAWKMAN finds his lost wife threatens to be the LAST day of his life! You'll find out why in "PARASITE PLANET PERIL," in the May HAWKMAN, No. 19, which will wing your way Feb. 9.

A haunting, mysterious DEMON takes over the body of LOIS LANE . . . and then seizes control of SUPERMAN himself, in a shocker like nothing you've ever read! April, No. 73, on sale Feb. 14.

The NEW BLACKHAWK ERA is about to be blasted to bits! No sooner are the MAGNIFICENT 7 off the ground in their new identities than a scheme is concocted to wipe them out. April, No. 231, on sale Feb. 14.

The matchless METAL BAND struggles against its most deadly, invincible threat, the one and only chemical villain—the unique CHEMO! The action erupts in the May METAL MEN, No. 25, on sale Feb. 16.

For the **MOST** in THRILLS...



FREE! *Captain Action's* SUPER HERO PARACHUTE

FOR A LIMITED
TIME ONLY!

YOU CAN CHANGE
CAPTAIN ACTION
INTO THE
WORLD'S MIGHTIEST
SUPER HEROES.

LOWE HAWKIN



STEVE
CANYON



CAPTAIN ACTION
SWOOPS DOWN ON
EVIL WITH HIS SUPER
HERO PARACHUTE!
JUST SNAP HIM INTO
HIS HARNESS AND THROW
THE PARACHUTE INTO
THE AIR. FLYING
HIGH, CAPTAIN ACTION
PARACHUTES TO VICTORY!
WHEN YOU BUY HIS
OTHER SUPER HERO
OUTFITS, YOU CAN
CHANGE CAPTAIN ACTION'S
UNIFORM
AND FACE MASK AND
HE TURNS INTO NINE
OF THE MIGHTIEST
SUPER HEROES OF
ALL TIME.

GET
Captain
Action's
SUPER HERO
PARACHUTE
FREE
WHEN YOU BUY
CAPTAIN ACTION.
HE'S



THE DYNAMIC DUO'S DOUBLE-DEATHTRAP!

PART
2

BUT--ROBIN DOES NOT TAKE THE FATAL STEP! INSTEAD HE RISES UPWARD, TOWARD AN OVER-HEAD CHANDELIER...

UPL! HE MISSED THE TRAP, THE DOUBLE-CROSSER!

QUIET, YOU POOL! YOU'LL TIP HIM OFF!



MEANWHILE BATMAN'S HAVING THE FIGHT OF HIS LIFE AGAINST HIS BURLY FOE...

HE'S A TOUGH ONE TO PUT AWAY!



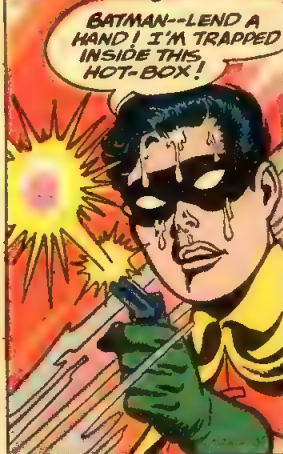
EAGER TO LEND A HAND TO HIS CRIME-FIGHTING COMPANION, ROBIN RACES FORWARD...



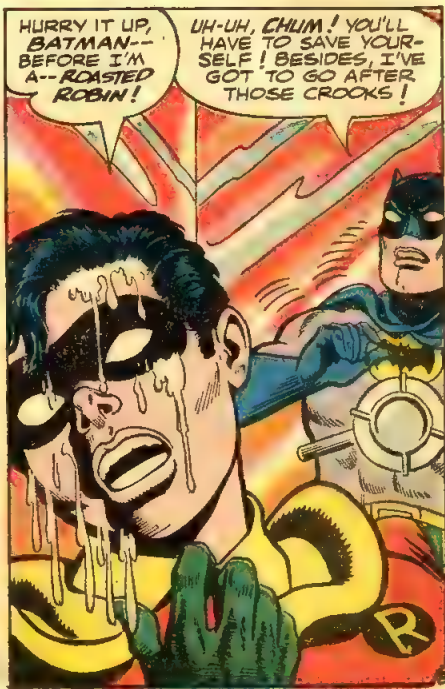
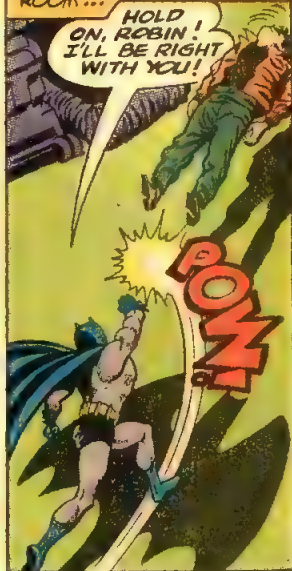


THE WALLS, CEILING AND FLOOR OF THE TRANSPARENT TRAP SNAP SHUT! INSTANTLY THEY BEGIN TO GLOW WITH INCREASING HEAT...

NONE OF THE DEVICES IN MY UTILITY BELT WORK AGAINST THIS SAFE-TRAP!



ROBIN'S ANGUISHED CRY PROVIDES THE EXTRA SOMETHING BATMAN NEEDS TO BELT HIS FOE ACROSS THE ROOM...



FOR AN INSTANT, THE **BOY WONDER** GAPES IN DISBELIEF AT HIS MENTOR! THEN HE TURNS HIS QUICK WITS INTO HIGH GEAR...

BATMAN-- YOU'RE CATCHING GOING TO ABANDON ME? BUT NO, THERE MUST BE A REASON... BUT WHAT? -- WAIT!... THOSE NUMBERS... 3-5-3-2... SOMETHING ABOUT THEM--

WISE, **ROBIN!** SUBSTITUTE LETTERS FOR THOSE "TELEPHONE NUMBERS"--AND YOU GET **EKDAL... ALMOST EKDAL!** IF THIS IS A DIABOLICAL **EVOL EKDAL** TRAP--IT'S A LOT TRICKIER THAN APPEARS TO THE EYE!

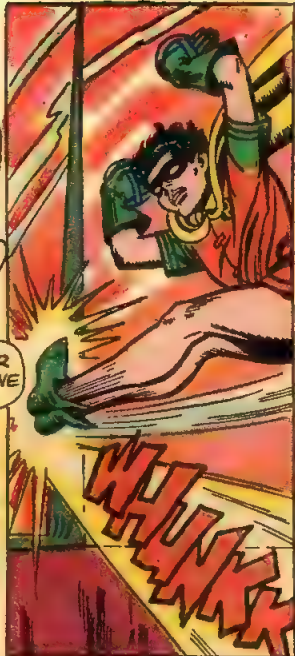


THOSE WORDS RESTORE A COOL MIND TO A STEAMING-HOT BODY! **ROBIN** SLIPS HEAT-PROTECTING, RUBBER-SUCTION DISCS ONTO HIS HANDS...

IN ALL THE HEAT I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT OUR CONVICTION THAT THERE IS NO INESCAPABLE TRAP! THIS ONE'S WEAK POINT IS -- ITS **INTENSE HEAT!** IT FEELS HOT ENOUGH TO MELT WHATEVER ADHESIVE IS HOLDING THE SIDES OF THE SAFE TOGETHER!



GREAT THINKING, **ROBIN!** IN ORDER TO ESCAPE YOU'VE GOT TO **KICK YOUR WAY OUT!**



OUT ON THE STREET, MOMENTS LATER...

OUR BIRDS HAVE FLOWN THE COOP! IT WAS USELESS TO TRY AND PURSUE THEM... **ROBIN**, I HAVE A HUNCH THAT IF I'D OPENED THAT SAFE--IT'D HAVE BEEN THE END OF BOTH OF US!

IT SURE WAS LUCKY YOU TUMBLED TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THOSE DIAL NUMBERS! **EVOL EKDAL--** WOW! I KNEW HE'D ESCAPED FROM PRISON--

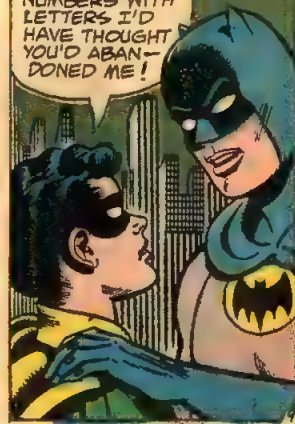


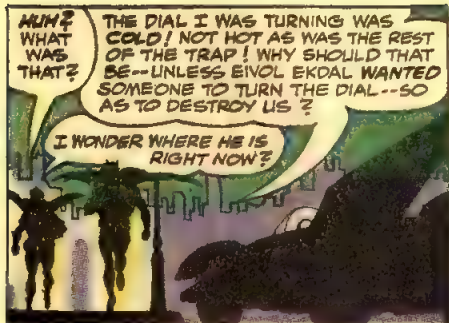
--AND IS BACK IN BUSINESS AGAIN! IT WAS A WHIM OF HIS COLOSSAL ARROGANCE TO "SIGN" OUR DEATH-WARRANT WITH HIS NAME EVEN AS HE DESTROYED US! IT WAS A TRAP WITHIN A TRAP!



SURE--IT WAS DESIGNED TO BLAST NOT ONLY THE TRAP'S PRISONER-- BUT HIS WOULD-BE RESCUER AS WELL! GOSH, IF YOU HADN'T TAUGHT ME THAT TRICK ABOUT ASSOCIATING TELEPHONE NUMBERS WITH LETTERS I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D ABANDONED ME!

I'D NEVER DO THAT, PAL! BESIDES, I ALSO HAD ONE LITTLE FURTHER CLUE THAT ELUDED YOU...





HUH?
WHAT
WAS
THAT?

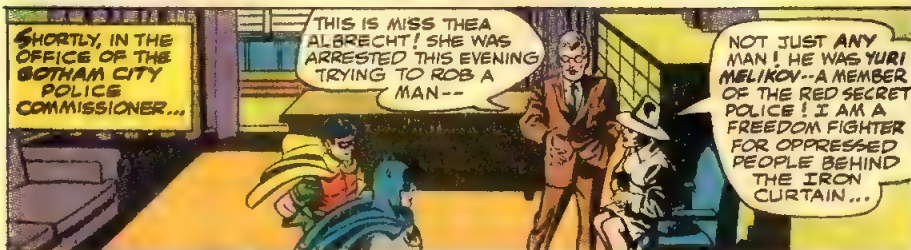
THE DIAL I WAS TURNING WAS
COLD! NOT HOT AS WAS THE REST
OF THE TRAP! WHY SHOULD THAT
BE--UNLESS EIVOL EKDAL WANTED
SOMEONE TO TURN THE DIAL--SO
AS TO DESTROY US?

I WONDER WHERE HE IS
RIGHT NOW?

THE DYNAMIC
DUO GETS THE
ANSWER SOONER
THAN EXPECTED--
FOR NEXT NIGHT
WHEN THE
HOT-LINE
RINGS...

HEY! EIVOL
EKDAL! HOW
ABOUT
THAT?

POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON
HERE! BATMAN, GET OVER TO
POLICE HEADQUARTERS AS
FAST AS POSSIBLE! WE HAVE
A HOT TIP ABOUT EIVOL
EKDAL'S WHEREABOUTS!



SHORTLY, IN THE
OFFICE OF THE
GOTHAM CITY
POLICE
COMMISSIONER...

THIS IS MISS THEA
ALBRECHT! SHE WAS
ARRESTED THIS EVENING
TRYING TO ROB A
MAN--

NOT JUST ANY
MAN! HE WAS YURI
MELIKOV--A MEMBER
OF THE RED SECRET
POLICE! I AM A
FREEDOM FIGHTER
FOR OPPRESSED
PEOPLE BEHIND
THE IRON
CURTAIN...



"I HELD HIM
UP, YES--AS
HE WAS ABOUT
TO ENTER A
CERTAIN HOUSE
ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF TOWN..."

DON'T MAKE
A MOVE!
ANY OF
YOU! OR I
SHALL SHOOT
TO KILL!



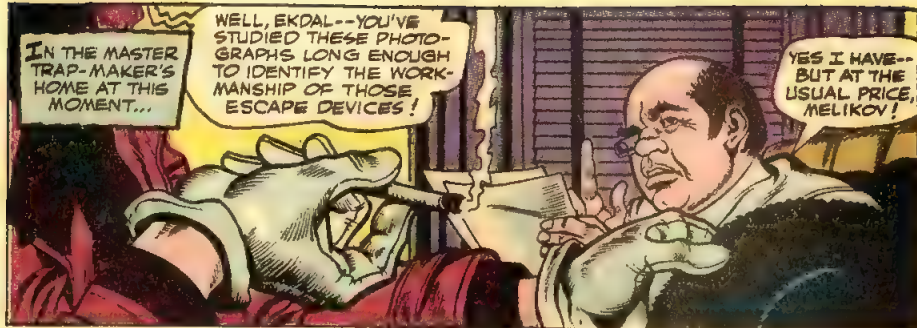
"AS I GRABBED
HIS CASE--CON-
TAINING PHOTO-
GRAPHS WHICH
WOULD BETRAY
THE ESCAPE--
GADGET MAKERS
WHO HELP OUR
PEOPLE ESCAPE
TO THE WEST
AND FREEDOM..."

NOW, NOW, YOUNG
LADY! NONE
OF THAT! JUST
LET GO THE
GUN!

THANK YOU, OFFICER! I
DEMAND YOU!
ARREST HER!
MAKE HER PAY
THE FULL PENALTY
OF THE LAW!

MELIKOV
WOULD
HAVE ME
KILLED IF
HE GUESSED
I WAS A
FREEDOM
FIGHTER!
IF HE
SHOULD
FIND
OUT--

YOU'RE IN POLICE
CUSTODY, MISS
ALBRECHT--SO
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT MELIKOV!
WE'LL TAKE
CARE OF HIM
AS SOON AS WE
RE-CAPTURE
EIVOL EKDAL...



IN THE MASTER TRAP-MAKER'S HOME AT THIS MOMENT...

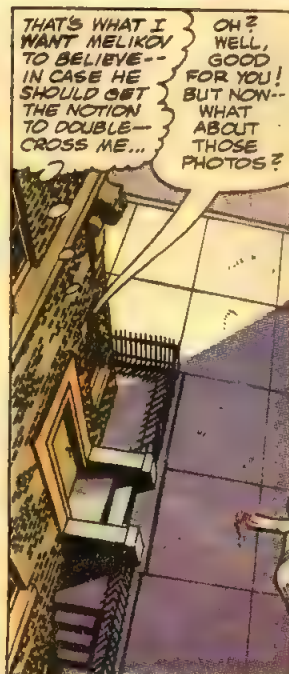
WELL, EKDAL--YOU'VE STUDIED THESE PHOTOGRAPHS LONG ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY THE WORKMANSHIP OF THOSE ESCAPE DEVICES!

YES I HAVE-- BUT AT THE USUAL PRICE, MELIKOV!



HERE IT IS-- \$100,000! EH-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT GRENADE, EKDAL? YOU'RE AN ESCAPE-GADGET BUILDER-- NOT A MUNITIONS EXPERT!

IT'S A SPECIAL INVENTION OF MINE-- THAT I EXPECT TO SELL FOR THE BARGAIN PRICE OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS!



THAT'S WHAT I WANT MELIKOV TO BELIEVE-- IN CASE HE SHOULD GET THE NOTION TO DOUBLE-- CROSS ME...

OH? WELL, GOOD FOR YOU! BUT NOW-- WHAT ABOUT THOSE PHOTOS?



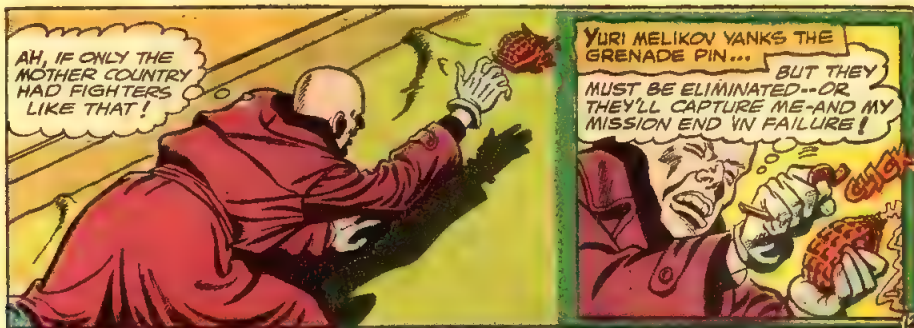
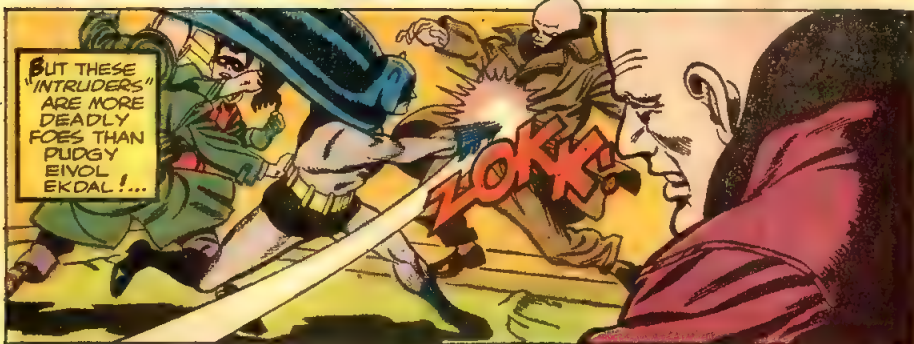
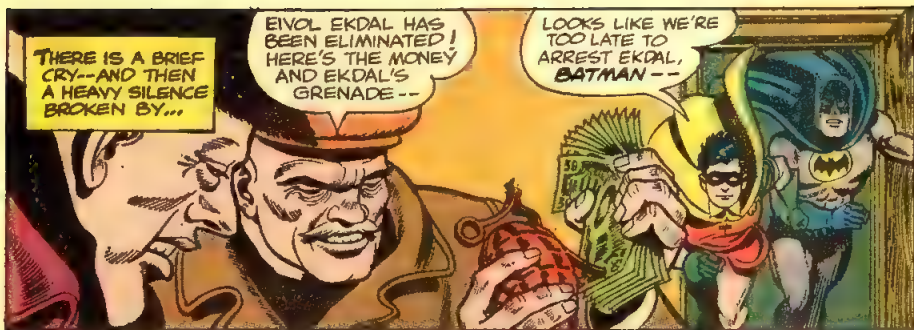
ONLY ONE FAMILY IN THE WORLD IS CLEVER ENOUGH TO MAKE SUCH ESCAPE-THINGS-- OUTSIDE OF ME, OF COURSE! HANS AND ADOLPH BRAUNER OF BERLIN BUILT THEM!

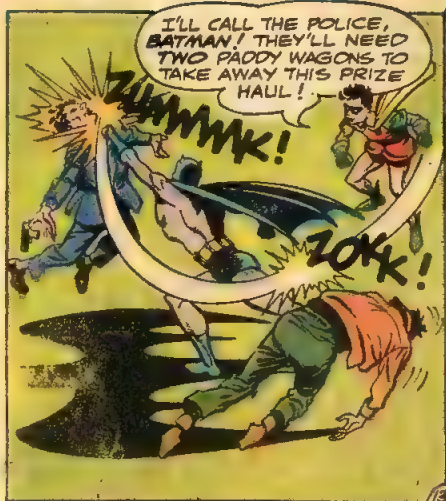
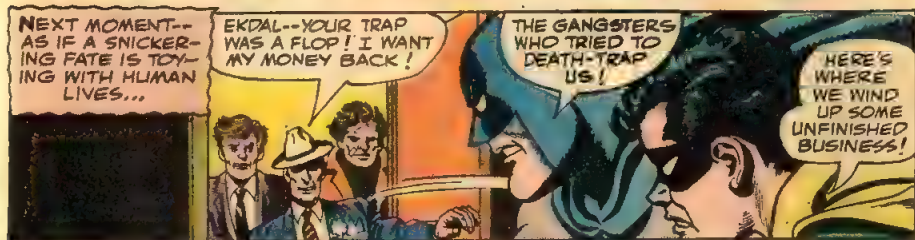
GOOD! INSIDE A WEEK, THEY WILL HAVE BEEN EXECUTED!



AS MELIKOV CLOSES THE WORKSHOP DOOR BEHIND HIM AND REJOINS HIS WAITING MEN...

KILL EKDAL! AND BE SURE TO BRING ME THE MONEY I GAVE HIM! ONE MORE THING--YOU WILL FIND A HAND GRENADE ON HIS WORKTABLE TOP! BRING THAT TO ME TOO! DEAD MEN HAVE NO NEED FOR A MILLION DOLLARS!





LATER, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE ...

YOU ROUNDED OUT THAT CASE VERY NEATLY, **BAT-MAN AND ROBIN!** MELIKOV--WHO WAS THE ONLY ONE TO WHOM THE LATE EIVOL EKDAL REVEALED THE IDENTITY OF THE GADGET MAKERS--IS DEAD! THOSE THREE GANGSTERS AND THE MELIKOV MUSCLEMEN ARE IN JAIL!

WHAT ABOUT ME, COMMISSIONER?

THE COMMISSIONER TELLS ME THAT WITH MELIKOV UNABLE TO TESTIFY AGAINST YOU, ALL CHARGES WILL BE DROPPED!

YOU ARE GOOD FREEDOM FIGHTERS--ALL OF YOU!

SOME TIME LATER, IN THE WAYNE MANSION ...

I'D LIKE TO THINK WE PLAYED A PART IN THE MAKING OF THIS HEADLINE, BRUCE!

THAT'S RIGHT, DICK! WE HELPED PEOPLE ESCAPE THE LARGEST TRAP IN THE WORLD--THE ONE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN!

20 MORE PEOPLE ESCAPE FROM EAST GERMANY!

THE END

For the **MOST** in THRILLS...

THE WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO!

THE ATOM

DAZE OF THE BAT-KNIGHTS!

The ATOM BETTER WIN HIS FIGHT UNDERGROUND OR IT WILL ERUPT INTO A WORLD-WIDE VOLCANO OVERGROUND!

ON SALE FEB. 2ND

Go-Go-Go!

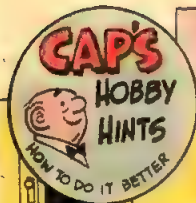
HAWKMAN

PARASITE PLANET PERIL!

THE DAY HAWKMAN FOUND HIS LOST MIPE--THREATENED TO BE THE LAST DAY OF HIS LIFE!

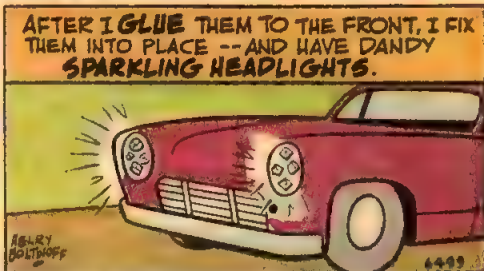
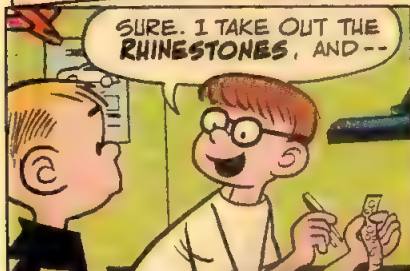
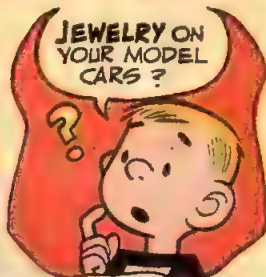
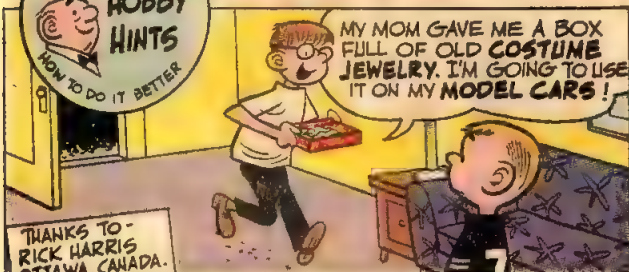
ON SALE FEB. 9TH

DC
SUPERMAN
NATIONAL COMICS



KIDS! MAIL IN YOUR HOBBY HINTS TO: CAP'S, NATIONAL COMICS,
575 LEXINGTON AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
IF PUBLISHED, YOU WILL RECEIVE \$5 AND THE ORIGINAL ART.

THANKS TO -
RICK HARRIS
OTTAWA, CANADA.



CUT OUT FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR **YOU** FROM **DC**:

*I resolve to take things slow and careful... especially in traffic, when a **fast** move could be my **last** move!*

HI! YOU KNOW ME... THE **BLIMP**! I TAKE THINGS EASY... BECAUSE I CAN'T GO FASTER THAN A SNAIL WITH A SORE FOOT! BUT IT'S **SAFE**... AND WE WANT YOU NOT ONLY TO ENJOY THE **FIRST** ISSUE OF **THE INFERIOR FIVE**, BUT TO BE AROUND WHEN WE GET TO OUR 100TH ISSUE, TOO!

WATCH FOR MORE RESOLUTIONS IN OTHER **DC** COMICS!



FLOATING YOUR WAY JAN. 24th

The ELONGATED Man

IN THE DAYS BEFORE HE BECAME A SOLVER OF STRANGE MYSTERIES-- AND LONG BEFORE HE MARRIED SUE DEARBON--RALPH (ELONGATED MAN) DIBNY WORKED IN A CIRCUS. NOW HIS TRAVELS BRING HIM BACK TO HIS OLD STAMPING GROUND AND A "BIG TOP" PUZZLE THAT COULD BE UNRAVELED ONLY BY SOLVING--

"The CURIOUS CLUE of the CIRCUS CROOK!"



THE SMELL OF SAWDUST AND GREASEPAINT BRINGS BACK HAPPY MEMORIES TO RALPH DIBNY, WHO WITH HIS WIFE SUE IS TOURING THE MIDLANDS BY CAR...

THAT'S BERT MANGUM'S CIRCUS, SUE-- WHERE I FIRST GOT MY START AS AN INDIA RUBBER MAN! COME ON, LET'S GO IN!

SWELL! I HAVEN'T SEEN A CIRCUS IN YEARS!

TICKETS

BY MANGUM'S MAMMOTH CIRCUS

UNDER THE BIG TOP, FOLLOWING THE AFTER-NOON PERFORMANCE...

GREAT SHOW, BERT MANGUM! CONGRATULATIONS --

PULP! ONLY ONE MAN CAN STRETCH OUT AN ARM LIKE THAT-- RALPH DIBNY, THE ELONGATED MAN!

AFTER SUE IS INTRODUCED TO THE CIRCUS-OWNER-RING-MASTER...

GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, RALPH-- EVEN IF THIS WAS OUR LAST PERFORMANCE! LOOK AT THIS-- A SLEW OF CANCELLATIONS-- FOR THE REST OF OUR TOUR!

BUT WHY?

LATELY, IN EVERY TOWN MY CIRCUS VISITS, A BIG ROBBERY OCCURS EVERY NIGHT! TOWNS WE'RE SCHEDULED TO GO TO ARE AFRAID THEY'LL BE ROBBED, TOO-- AND HAVE CANCELLED OUT!

SOUNDS AS IF SOMEONE CONNECTED WITH THE CIRCUS IS THE ROBBER--

I THOUGHT OF THAT-- SO SECRETLY HAD TESTED MY EMPLOYEES BY PUTTING A FLUORESCENT CHEMICAL IN THE WATER WHEN THEY WASH THEIR HANDS! THAT SOLUTION WOULD HAVE LEFT A MARK VISIBLE ONLY IN INFRA-RED LIGHT. I TOLD THE TOWN POLICE ABOUT IT-- BUT NO SUCH MARK EVER APPEARED AT THE PLACES ROBBED--

BUT THE THIEF COULD HAVE WORN GLOVES--

SURE-- BUT THIS PARTICULAR CHEMICAL WOULD HAVE CAUSED FINGERPRINTS TO LEAVE THEIR MARKS EVEN THROUGH GLOVES!

THAT CERTAINLY SEEMS TO ELIMINATE THE CIRCUS PERSONNEL!

MY THEORY IS--SOME OUTSIDER IS FOLLOWING US WHO HAS A GRUDGE AGAINST EITHER ME OR MY CIRCUS! BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE WHO! AND THERE'S NO WAY OF CHECKING UP ON ANYONE LIKE THAT!

AHA! IT'S ABOUT TIME RALPH'S SCHNOZZOLA STARTED TO SHAKE AND SHIVER! HE SMELLS A MYSTERY FOR FAIR!



BERT, I HAVE AN IDEA! YOU'RE GOING TO ANNOUNCE A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE WITH A SENSATIONAL BIG STAR ATTRACTION! EVERYBODY'LL COME TO SEE IT--INCLUDING OUR MYSTERIOUS CROOK... I HOPE!

ONE WILD GUESS WHO THE STAR ATTRACTION'S GOING TO BE!



EVERY TICKET WILL BE COATED WITH THE FLUORESCENT SOLUTION--SO ASSUMING THE UNKNOWN THIEF PURCHASES A TICKET, HIS HAND WILL BE TAINTED AND HE'LL LEAVE HIS PRINTS BEHIND AT THE SCENE OF HIS NEXT CRIME!

MY HUSBAND THE CROOK-CATCHER, HARD AT WORK!



IT'S A TERRIFIC IDEA, RALPH--BUT WHO CAN I GET TO BE MY STAR ATTRACTION AT THIS LATE DATE?

ME! THE CELEBRATED ELONGATED MAN! WHO ELSE?

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?



WITHIN THE HOUR, THE BALLYHOO BEGINS AS A SOUND TRUCK TOURS THE TOWN OF GRASSY CORNERS...

COME ONE--COME ALL--TO MANGUM'S MAMMOTH CIRCUS! THE ONE, THE ONLY, ELONGATED MAN--THAT INCOMPARABLE EMIR OF ELASTICITY--THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE--THE MALLEABLE MYSTERY-SOLVER--WILL MAKE A SENSATIONAL, THRILL-PACKED APPEARANCE!



WOW! I WON'T MISS THAT FOR THE WORLD!

INSIDE THE SOUND TRUCK...

YOU DON'T THINK I'M OVERDOING THE SPIEL, SUE?

YOUR MODESTY NEVER FAILS TO STAGGER MY IMAGINATION, SWEETHEART!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

Build this
REALLY
Aurora
Hobby Kit

FAR OUT



The Space Family Robinson fights a
giant one-eyed monster from outer-space!

"LOST IN SPACE"

The Official Kit of the TV Show!

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\$1.98 wherever hobby products are sold. Also available in 98¢ version, featuring monster, Family Robinson and big display stand.

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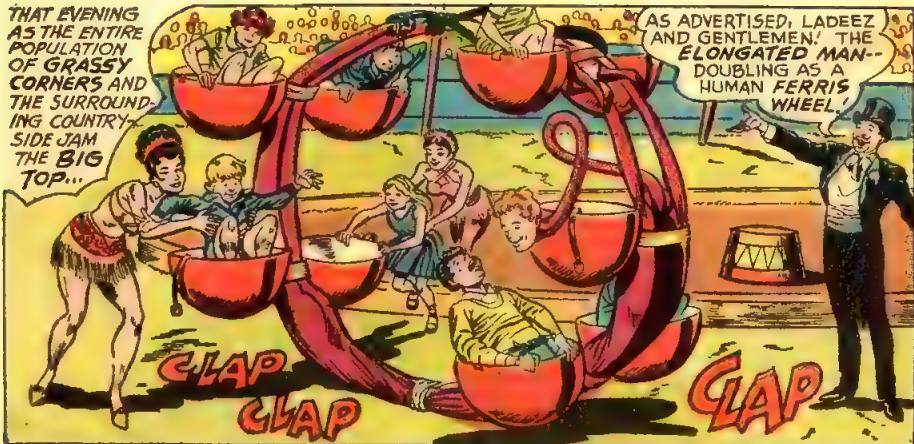
Aurora products are manufactured entirely in the U.S. for distribution in America, in Canada for the Commonwealth nations; and in Holland for Europe and Africa



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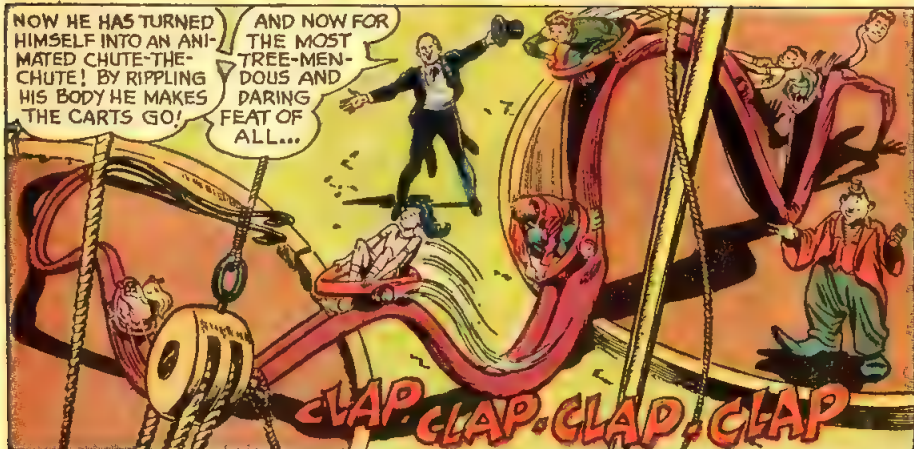
THAT EVENING
AS THE ENTIRE
POPULATION
OF GRASSY
CORNERS AND
THE SURROUND-
ING COUNTRY
SIDE JAM
THE BIG
TOP...

AS ADVERTISED, LADEEZ
AND GENTLEMEN, THE
ELONGATED MAN--
DOUBLING AS A
HUMAN FERRIS
WHEEL!

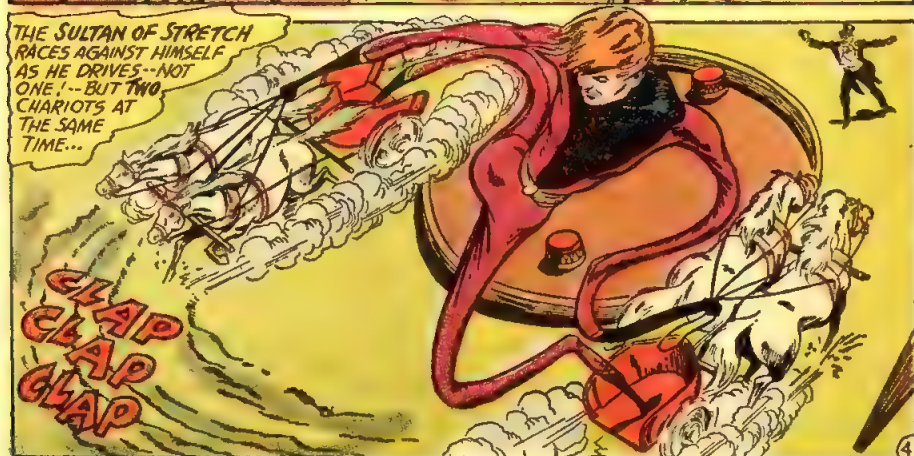


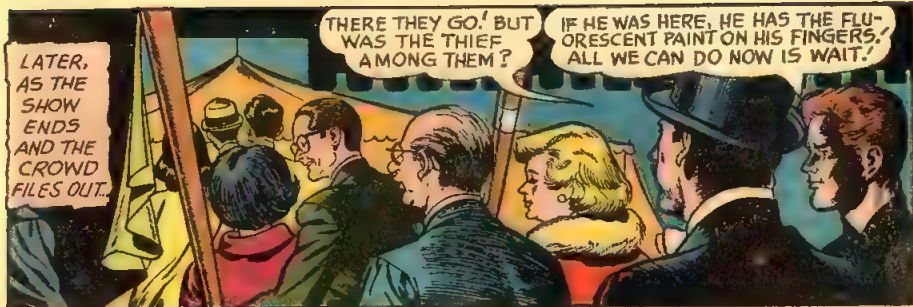
NOW HE HAS TURNED
HIMSELF INTO AN ANI-
MATED CHUTE-THE-
CHUTE! BY RIPPLING
HIS BODY HE MAKES
THE CARTS GO!

AND NOW FOR
THE MOST
TREE-MEN-
DOUS AND
DARING
FEAT OF
ALL...



THE SULTAN OF STRETCH
RACES AGAINST HIMSELF
AS HE DRIVES--NOT
ONE!--BUT TWO
CHARIOTS AT
THE SAME
TIME...





LATER,
AS THE
SHOW
ENDS
AND THE
CROWD
FILES OUT.

THERE THEY GO! BUT
WAS THE THIEF
AMONG THEM?

IF HE WAS HERE, HE HAS THE FLU-
ORESCENT PAINT ON HIS FINGERS!
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS WAIT!

SILENCE IS A BLANKET ON THE SLEEPING
CIRCUS PERFORMERS THREE HOURS LATER WHEN...



ELONGATED MAN-- YOUR
TRICK PAID OFF! SOMEONE
JUST ROBBED THE HOME
OF THE RICHEST MAN
IN TOWN! HOP
IN, BOTH OF
YOU!

BUT-- DID HE
LEAVE THE
TELLTALE
CLUE?

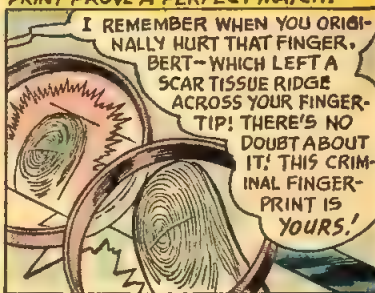


SOON, IN
THE ROBBED
HOME...

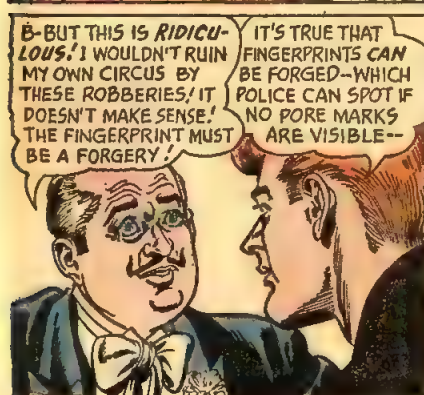
THE THIEF GOT AWAY WITH SOME
PRICELESS FIRST-EDITION BOOKS--
BUT LEFT BEHIND THAT
FLUORESCENT FINGER-
PRINT!

NOW IF WE
CAN IDENTIFY IT--
GOOD GOSH! BERT--
SHOW ME YOUR
RIGHT HAND!

BY INFRA-RED LIGHT AND BY ORDINARY
LIGHT--THE ROBBERS' FINGERPRINT AND
BERT MANGUM'S RIGHT FOREFINGER
PRINT PROVE A PERFECT MATCH!

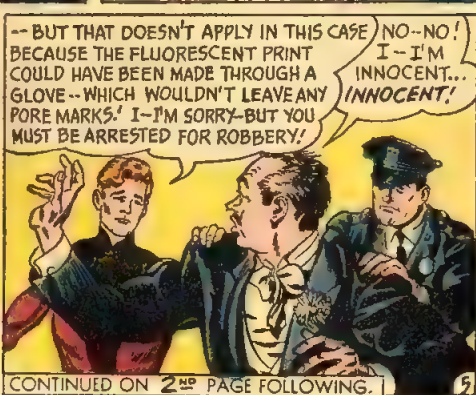


I REMEMBER WHEN YOU ORIGI-
NALLY HURT THAT FINGER,
BERT-- WHICH LEFT A
SCAR TISSUE RIDGE
ACROSS YOUR FINGER-
TIP! THERE'S NO
DOUBT ABOUT
IT! THIS CRIMI-
NAL FINGER-
PRINT IS
YOURS!



B--BUT THIS IS RIDICU-
LOUS! I WOULDN'T RUIN
MY OWN CIRCUS BY
THESE ROBBERIES! IT
DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
THE FINGERPRINT MUST
BE A FORGERY!

IT'S TRUE THAT
FINGERPRINTS CAN
BE FORGED--WHICH
POLICE CAN SPOT IF
NO PORE MARKS
ARE VISIBLE--



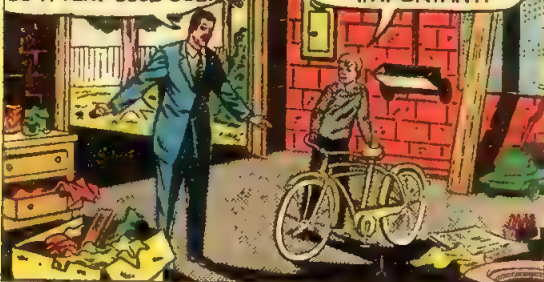
-- BUT THAT DOESN'T APPLY IN THIS CASE! NO--NO!
BECAUSE THE FLUORESCENT PRINT
COULD HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH A
GLOVE--WHICH WOULDN'T LEAVE ANY
PORE MARKS! I--I'M SORRY--BUT YOU
MUST BE ARRESTED FOR ROBBERY!

I--I'M
INNOCENT...
INNOCENT!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

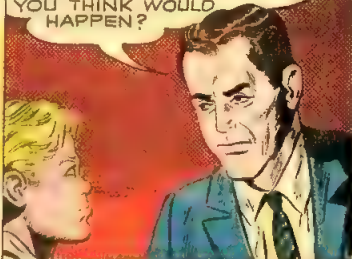
COUNTDOWN ON EXCELLENCE

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO CLEAN UP THE GARAGE, JERRY, BUT YOU DIDN'T DO A VERY GOOD JOB.



AW, DAD, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? IT'S NOT VERY IMPORTANT.

HMM...WITH THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE, YOU'LL GET INTO SLOPPY WORK HABITS. IF EVERYONE FELT THAT WAY ABOUT HIS JOB, WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN?



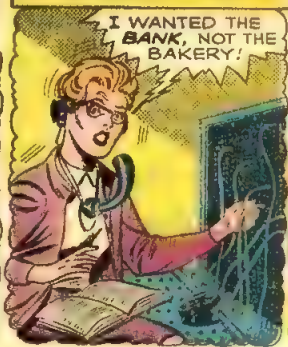
"SUPPOSE A PLUMBER DIDN'T DO HIS WORK RIGHT..."

OH, DEAR! AND THE PLUMBER WAS JUST HERE AND SAID EVERYTHING WAS FINE!



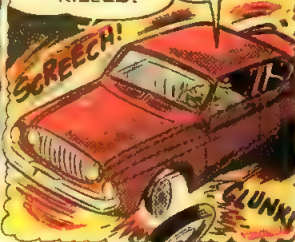
"OR A SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR..."

I WANTED THE BANK, NOT THE BAKERY!



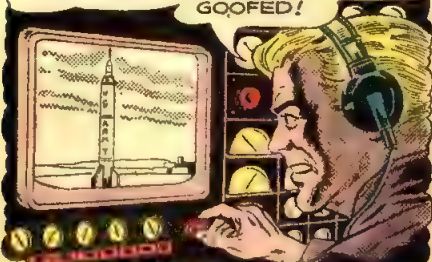
"OR A GARAGE MECHANIC..."

I JUST HAD MY TIRE CHANGED! THE MECHANIC DIDN'T TIGHTEN THE WHEEL PROPERLY--I COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!

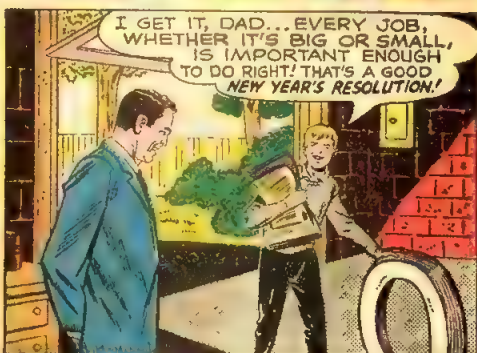


"OR A MAN WHO WORKS ON A SPACE CAPSULE..."

COUNTDOWN... THREE... TWO... ONE... ZERO! HUH? NO BLAST-OFF! SOMEBODY GOOFED!



I GET IT, DAD... EVERY JOB, WHETHER IT'S BIG OR SMALL, IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO DO RIGHT! THAT'S A GOOD NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!



BOOKED FOR ROBBERY, MANGUM'S PERSONAL EFFECTS ARE TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, WHERE...

I KNOW BERT'S INNOCENT--HE WAS WITH ME ALL THE TIME--BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET TO EXAMINE THIS FLOWER HE WORE IN HIS BUTTONHOLE WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING WHAT I WAS UP TO! AH--AS I SUSPECTED! THE FLOWER IS CLEVERLY BUGGED WITH A LISTENING DEVICE!

'THE REAL CROOK HAS NOW ACCOMPLISHED HIS PURPOSE.' HE'S PUT THE CIRCUS OUT OF BUSINESS AND HAD MANGUM ARRESTED FOR HIS CRIMES! NOW HE'LL PROBABLY TAKE HIS LOOT AND LEAVE TOWN, NEVER TO BE DISCOVERED UNLESS... UNLESS...

HUH? THE ELONGATED MAN WANTS ME...?

CAPTAIN, BERT MANGUM IS INNOCENT--AND I'LL PROVE IT BY BRINGING IN THE LOOT OF ALL THOSE ROBBERIES WITHIN THE HOUR! PLUS, OF COURSE, THE REAL CULPRIT!

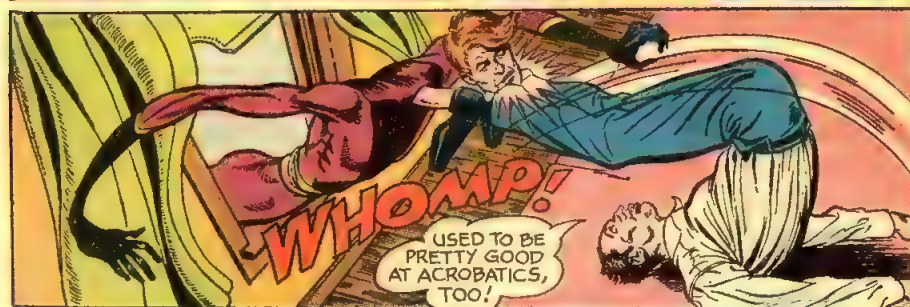
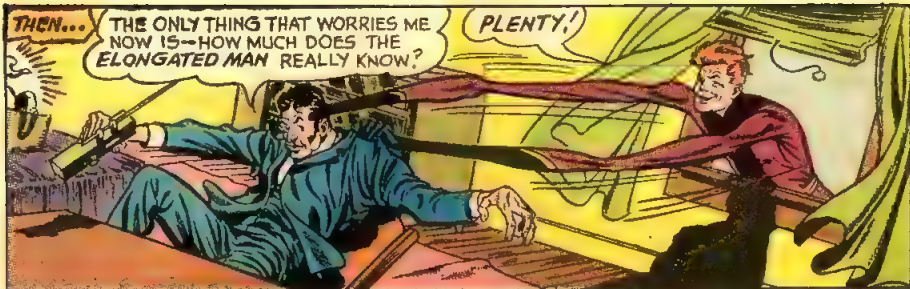
IF YOU CAN DO THAT, ELONGATED MAN--I'LL PERSONALLY DISCHARGE BERT MANGUM!

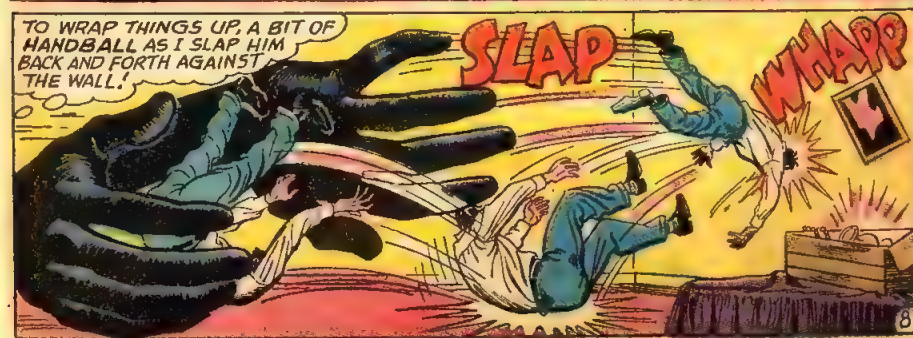
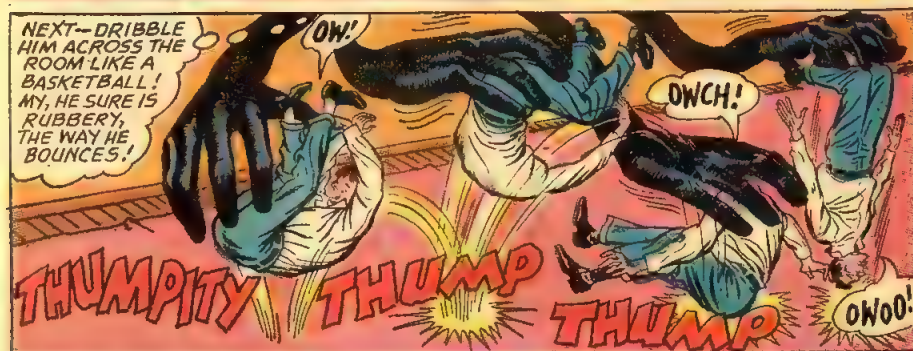
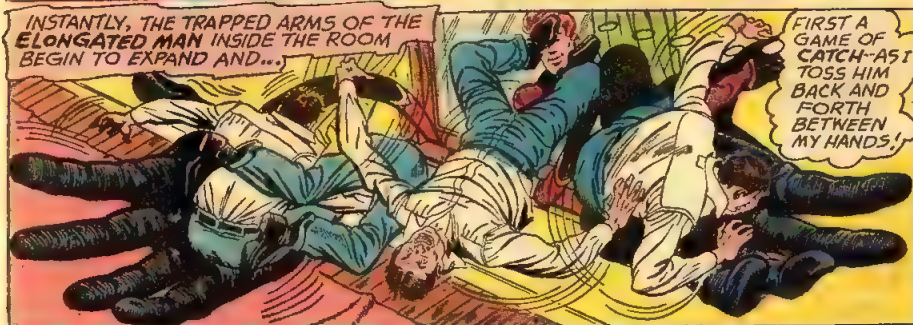
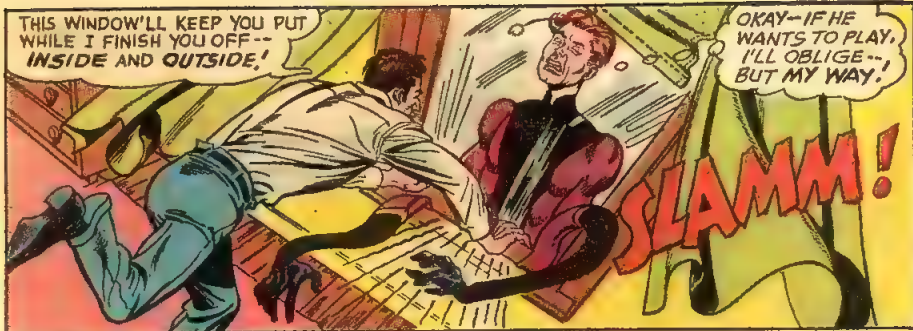
IN A BOARDING HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GRASSY CORNERS...

WHAT'S THIS? THE ELONGATED MAN BOASTING HE'S GONNA BRING IN THE LOOT OF ALL MY ROBBERIES? IM-POSSIBLE! HE CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW I'M THE THIEF! JUST THE SAME--I'D BETTER KEEP LISTENING TO THE BUGGING DEVICE I ALWAYS PLANT IN THE CARNATIONS DELIVERED TO BERT MANGUM!

KNOWING MANGUM'S CUSTOM OF ORDERING A CARNATION DELIVERED TO HIS TENT EVERY DAY, I SIMPLY FOLLOWED THE DELIVERY TRUCK AND SUBSTITUTED A BUGGED FLOWER FOR THE REAL ONE! I WANTED TO EAVESDROP ON HIM--LISTEN TO HIM GROAN AS HIS CIRCUS WAS BEING PUT OUT OF BUSINESS...

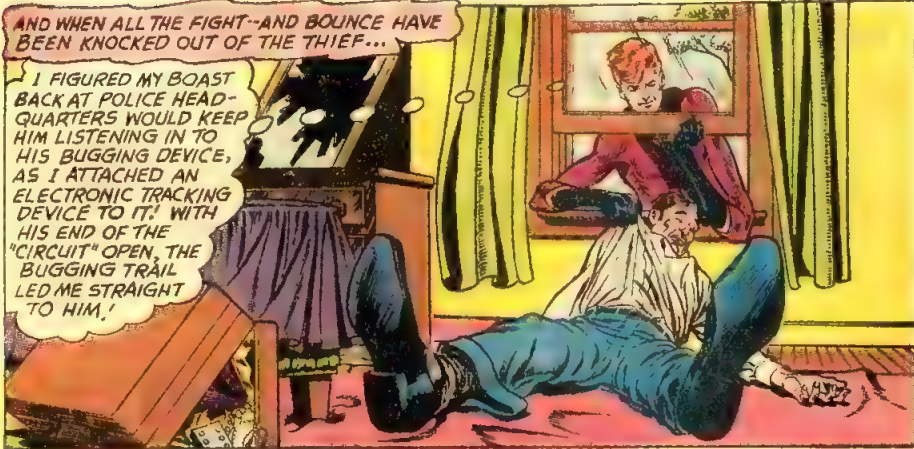
I EVEN HAD A SPECIAL RUBBER FINGERPRINT STAMP MADE WITH HIS PRINTS--FOR THE FINAL CRUSHING BLOW THAT WOULD HAVE MANGUM ARRESTED FOR MY ROBBERIES! NOW HE'S FINISHED!





AND WHEN ALL THE FIGHT--AND BOUNCE HAVE BEEN KNOCKED OUT OF THE THIEF...

I FIGURED MY BOAST BACK AT POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS WOULD KEEP HIM LISTENING IN TO HIS BUGGING DEVICE, AS I ATTACHED AN ELECTRONIC TRACKING DEVICE TO IT! WITH HIS END OF THE "CIRCUIT" OPEN, THE BUGGING TRAIL LED ME STRAIGHT TO HIM!



NOW COME ALONG! I'LL SEND THE POLICE BACK HERE FOR YOUR LOOT AFTER YOU'RE BEHIND BARS!



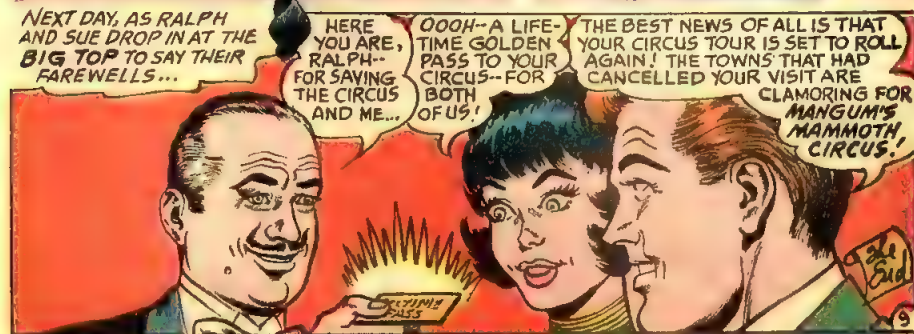
NEXT DAY, AS RALPH AND SUE DROP IN AT THE BIG TOP TO SAY THEIR FAREWELLS...

HERE YOU ARE, RALPH--FOR SAVING THE CIRCUS AND ME...

OOOH--A LIFE-TIME GOLDEN PASS TO YOUR CIRCUS--FOR BOTH OF US!

THE BEST NEWS OF ALL IS THAT YOUR CIRCUS TOUR IS SET TO ROLL AGAIN! THE TOWNS THAT HAD CANCELLED YOUR VISIT ARE

CLAMORING FOR MANGUM'S MAMMOTH CIRCUS!



LATER, IN THE DIBNY HOTEL ROOM...

BUT WHY DID THAT CROOK ROLLINS PULL OFF THESE ROBBERIES WHEREVER THE CIRCUS WAS PLAYING--AND MAKE BERT MANGUM HIS VICTIM?

FOR THE OLDEST REASON IN THE WORLD, HONEY--REVENGE! YEARS AGO, MANGUM HAD FIRED ROLLINS BECAUSE HE WAS A TROUBLEMAKER--SO ROLLINS WORKED OUT THIS SNEAKY SCHEME OF GETTING EVEN WITH HIM!



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BATMAN'S HOT-LINE - EXTRA

Dear Editor:

In the October issue of *Detective Comics* 356, I must congratulate you for your excellent revival of Alfred, Bruce Wayne's trusty butler.

A brilliant piece of talent on the author's part. But there is one thing that comes to my mind when there is talk of the butler and that is—what is Alfred's last name?

I would appreciate an answer.

—P.C. Castircum, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

(So would we! Would you believe we do not know Alfred's last name—any more than we know Commissioner Gordon's first name! Can some *Batman* expert supply these answers?—Editor)

Dear Editor:

To get right to the point, I just want to ask, is *Robin* perfect? In all the years *Detective Comics* have been published *Robin* has never gotten licked. Now don't get me wrong, I like *Robin* but I have never heard of a boy who has not been licked at least once. You are probably going to say *Robin* is especially well-behaved, but still no boy ever goes through life without getting into trouble at least once.

—Jim Jones, Jacksonville, Fla.

(When it comes to lickings, we prefer to show those that *Robin* hands out to criminals—rather than those he's handed as a disciplinary measure.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

In *Detective* 356 you answered Rick Wood's letter by saying that *Robin* is going "camp" along with the trend. But I'll bet you your bottom dollar that *Robin* would not have gone "camp" if it wasn't for the *Batman* TV show!

—Robert Seier, Bronx, N.Y.

(Could it be that *Robin*'s been "camp" in the past—and just "campier" at present?—Editor)

Dear Editor:

In the Sept. *World's Finest* a certain person calling himself a "connoisseur of comic sound effects" stated that he studied comic-mag sound effects and never found the word "Zap" used in a fist-fight. Yet in front of me I have *Detective Comics* No. 355 and *Batman* No. 184.

In fist-fights in both of these books I find "Zap" being used! In the first mag mentioned it appears on page 2, panel 5. In the second, page 7, panel 2, it is used again.

Since all the books I refer to are September issues, please try to explain this. Did the person make a mistake?

—Sharon Hoffman, Diamond Bar, Cal.

(Holy Zap! So it seems!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I love to draw, but have trouble keeping the body in proportion. Do you think either Carmine Infantino or Bob Kane would draw a special feature (in *Batman* or *Detective*) on how he draws the caped Crime-Fighters (from the first line to the finished drawing)?

—Michael Schiano, Massapequa Park, N.Y.

(If enough readers put enough pressure on us, we'll commission Kane or Infantino to bat out the illustrations.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

May I please, please put in a good word for the "old" look *Batman*. since everyone seems to knock him.

I've stopped enjoying *Batman* since you've elevated (?) him to the dubious position of a "super-hero". Do you know that up until the time the "new-look" *Batman* was created, I had had every issue printed of *Batman* from his first appearance in the May, 1939 issue of *Detective Comics* (Yes, I know its worth a fortune! No, I'm not willing to part with my collection or any single comic in it). As I said, up until then I had a full collection of *Detective Comics* and of *Batman*. I have stopped collecting the aforementioned because they are no longer worth reading no less collecting.

Batman has now become ridiculous running around saving the world from disasters. Funny, but I liked him better as a detective who solved clever crimes. The stories were more involved in those days. I liked the "who-dun-it" and "how did he do it" aspect of the story. His adversaries, though mortal, were ingenious. I always liked *Two Face* and the original *Joker* the best. The stories did tend to deteriorate a bit with the introduction of *Bat-woman*, her *bat-niece* and *Bat-mite*, but compared to the stories of today they read like "The Iliad".

Somehow *Batman* was a more awe-inspiring character than one to be feared. The greatest desire on the part of his adversaries was to unmask him. You very rarely see that any more.

Can't we please, please have the old *Batman* back? The new art is a misery because it symbolizes the laughable and harmless characters *Batman* and *Robin* have become. *Batman* is not the flippant character you have made him and *Robin*—forget it—I don't know who the creep is taking his place, but get rid of him—he makes me sick!

I don't mean this to be a crackpot letter, I hope you see that. If I didn't enjoy the old *Batman* character so much and if I didn't care so much, I wouldn't bother writing at all—*Judy Axelrod, Brooklyn, N.Y.* (Of course you're entitled to your opinion, but we wonder if it isn't the "nostalgia" of the "old" *Batman* that makes him seem superior to the "new" one. You have plenty of company, for instance, in those movie buffs who insist that silent movies were better than today's talkies.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

In your letter page you often mention the magazine *Batmania*. I've been wondering, could you give me some information on this magazine, such as where I can write for a subscription, how often it comes out, etc.?

—David Goodman, Woodland Hills, Cal.

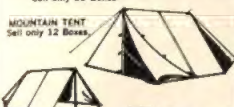
(*BATMANIA*—"The Fanzine. Especially for *Batman* Fans"—is published irregularly by Bill J. White, P.O. Box 115, Columbia, Missouri, 65201. A request for further information should bring results.—Editor)

Communications slanted for this department should be addressed to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE-EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.



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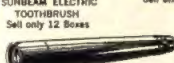
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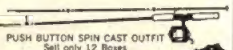
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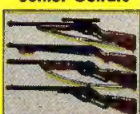
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